

## 2023 Legislative Proposals for the Capitol Rice and Capitol Mall subareas of the Capitol Area

### CAPITOL AREA STREET IMPROVEMENT

There are funds in multiple bills to achieve the same goal of reconstructing and improving Rice Street. Rice Street not only weaves the Capitol Area with the neighborhood, it also is the road many Minnesotans use to access state government.

#### RICE STREET RENOVATION

**[House File 2618 (Hussein) / Senate File 3009 (Pappas) - included in House Transportation Omnibus Budget Bill HF 2887]**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2887&ssn=0&y=2023>

Funding for planning, predesign, design, engineering, environmental analysis and mitigation, land acquisition, and reconstruction of lower Rice Street through the Capitol Area. Redesign of Rice Street would focus on traffic calming and improved facilities for transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. This is a multi-jurisdictional project because Rice Street north of University Avenue is a County Road and south of University Avenue is a City street.

*Appropriation: \$25,000,000 to be held by MNDOT for grants to City or Saint Paul and/or Ramsey County to undertake all phases of the project from planning to reconstruction.*



#### CAPITOL AREA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

**[House File 2427, Section 4 (Klevorn) / Senate File 2743 (Pappas), included in House Economic Development Omnibus Budget HF3028]**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF3028&ssn=0&y=2023>

Funding for road projects that improve the livability, economic health, and safety of communities within the Capitol Area. Funded projects must be consistent with the recommendations of the Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force [HF2427 Sec 2], as approved by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

Funds under this section are available:

- (1) for planning, predesign, design, engineering, environmental analysis and mitigation, land acquisition, and reconstruction of streets and highways; and
- (2) only upon approval of the expenditure by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

*Appropriation: \$5,000,000 to Dept of Administration in FY2024 for one or more grants to the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, or both, for road projects. This onetime appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.*

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### CAPITOL AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Approaches have been moving forward to improve the livability, economic health, and safety of the Capitol/Rice Community. CAAP Board staff and legislators will continue to monitor opportunities to support the community development of the Capitol/Rice Street Community.

#### CAPITOL AREA COMMUNITY VITALITY ACCOUNT

**[House File 2427, Section 3 (Klevorn) / Senate File 2743 (Pappas), included in House Economic Development Omnibus Budget HF3028**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF3028&ssn=0&y=2023>

A Capitol Area community vitality account will be established to improve the livability, economic health, and safety of communities within the Capitol Area. The special revenue fund account shall be held by the Dept. of Administration until a detailed community and economic development program is identified. The spending plan and oversight structure for implementation shall be determined in accordance with recommendations of a Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force [HF2427 Sec 2], as approved by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

*Appropriation: \$5,000,000 in FY2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the Capitol Area Community Vitality Account.*



#### CAPITOL AREA COMMUNITY VITALITY TASK FORCE

**[House File 2427, Section 2 (Klevorn) / Senate File 2743 (Pappas), included in House Economic Development Omnibus Budget HF3028]**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF3028&ssn=0&y=2023>

A Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force will be established to consider and develop recommendations for the administration, program plan, and oversight of the Capitol Area community vitality account established by this act.

The CAAPB will provide administrative support to the task force and will hire community and economic development consultants to guide the task force work. The task force must conduct its first meeting prior to August 15, 2023.

The Task force shall have the following members:

- 1 Executive Secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board;
- 1 member of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, appointed by the board

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- 2 Representatives appointed by Speaker of the House (1 each from majority and minority caucuses);
- 2 Senators appointed by Senate Majority Leader (1 each from majority and minority caucuses);
- 4 residents, businesspeople, or members of local organizations in the Capitol Area, appointed by the Mayor of St. Paul; and
- 1 member of the public appointed by the Governor.



October 3<sup>rd</sup> Event at League of MN Cities



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**CAPITOL RICE**  
 < LOWER RICE STREET >

**INPUT IS NEEDED**  
 from **SMALL BUSINESSES** and **COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

on **COMMERCIAL VITALITY, SAFETY, PARKING and STREET DESIGN**

Informational Gathering  
 Noon (Tuesday)  
**Sept 12**  
 at the Church: Rice  
 L'Etalle de Nord Vault  
**Bring Placemaking & Street Design Ideas**

**Oct 3** (Thursday)  
 Come Anytime: 4:00—7:00 pm  
 League of Minnesota Cities

These gatherings are sponsored and hosted through a City County Urban Empowerment Planning Collaboration. Aiming at private sector, public sector and capital investments in the center over the next 10 years. We Capital Area Historical and District Board, the City of Saint Paul, and Ramsey County Planners would like to gather ideas and find like community members. **TRACK THE PROJECT** and **SIGN UP for EMAIL UPDATES** at [capitolrice.org](http://capitolrice.org)

SPONSORED BY: **CAAPB** (Public Meeting 10/19/23) [www.capitolrice.org](http://www.capitolrice.org)



CHAZ (Center for Housing Arts and Talent) artist, Mai Yee Chang Performs on January 28th at Christ Lutheran Church



From left to right: Paul Mandel (CAAPB) leads the discussion with panelists Wita Slavova, Foua Klong, Senator Sandra Peters, and Mayor Jay McDonald Colver

**CELEBRATE YOUR IDEAS**  
 for **CAPITOL RICE**  
 (LOWER RICE STREET NEAR CAPITOL)

FOR **BUSINESS VITALITY, SAFETY, PARKING, and URBAN DESIGN**

**Monday January 29**  
 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
 Artists: [www.capitolrice.org](http://www.capitolrice.org)

3. Presentations: [www.capitolrice.org](http://www.capitolrice.org)

4. Panel: [www.capitolrice.org](http://www.capitolrice.org)

5. Idea Gallery: [www.capitolrice.org](http://www.capitolrice.org)



September 12<sup>th</sup> Event at the Capitol



Images above from previous public engagement in the Capitol Rice area led by CAAPB and City of Saint Paul. Public input from this engagement shaped Comprehensive Plan priorities for the Capitol Rice area.

The task force must submit its recommendations to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board for approval. The CAAPB shall then submit the report and approved recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over the board no later than February 1, 2024.

*Appropriation: \$150,000 to CAAPB in FY2024 to support the work of the task force, including but not limited to fees and expenses necessary for professional consultants, public meetings, and other activities requested by the task force.*

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# WEAVING THE CAPITOL CAMPUS WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD

This plan provides resources to plan for and improve the Capitol Campus design framework. It also puts markers down to use planning and future design to link the Capitol Campus with community owned businesses.

## CAPITOL CAMPUS DESIGN FRAMEWORK

[House Files 2427, Section 5 (Klevorn) / Senate File 2742 (Pappas), included in House State Government Omnibus Bill HF1830]

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF1830&ssn=0&y=2023>

Funding to update the 32-year-old Capitol Mall Design Framework. The updated design framework must include plans to:

- (1) Integrate green space campus-wide, including but not limited to the addition of green space on the following sites at the approximate sizes indicated:
  - i. the southwest corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of 20,700\* square feet;
  - ii. the northeast corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of 32,000\* square feet; and
  - iii. the north side of the State Capitol building adjacent to University Avenue.

(\* For rezoning: as a result of changes above there must be no net loss of G2 land compared to current condition. The diagram shown is one alternative, but no determination has been decided as to a final size, shape or location.)



- (2) Add visual markers and welcome information for the Capitol campus at one or more corners of Rice Street and University Avenue, anchoring a pathway to the State Capitol building and Capitol Mall that features interpretive markers honoring the importance and stature of the Capitol campus as both a historic site and as a modern, active public gathering space for all Minnesotans.



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- (3) Plant trees throughout the Capitol campus, prioritizing the creation of a mature tree canopy to provide an area of shade for users of the Capitol Mall between or adjacent to the State Capitol building and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

The CAAPB shall use the funding to contract with professional design consultants specialized in horticulture, landscape architecture, civic space design, infrastructure assessment, and operations and maintenance planning to develop the framework updates.

The board must additionally consult with the Commissioners of Administration and Public Safety, the Senate majority leader, and Speaker of the House or their designees before any proposed framework update is approved. The board must approve the updated design framework no later than March 1, 2024.

*Appropriation: \$1,000,000 to CAAPB in FY2023 to update the Capitol Mall Design Framework. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until December 31, 2024.*

*Appropriation. \$5,000,000 in FY2024 to Dept. of Administration to implement the updated Capitol Mall Design Framework, prioritizing the framework plans identified in (1) to (3) above. This onetime appropriation is available until December 31, 2024.*

### FORD BUILDING SITE MIXED-USE REDEVELOPMENT

**[House File 2427, Section 1 (Klevorn) / Senate File 2743 (Pappas), included in House State Government Omnibus Bill HF1830]**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF1830&ssn=0&y=2023>

Future redevelopment of the Ford Building property (and Lot C) must be mixed-use and include ground-level space for locally owned businesses.

